



Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter



New York's 28th District

Erie County | Winter 2003

Leading the Fight in Congress to Ban Genetic Discrimination

Did you know that there is no overarching federal law preventing employers and health insurers from testing your DNA without your consent, and then using that information to discriminate against you? Rep. Slaughter, a microbiologist with a Master's Degree

in Public Health, has led the fight in the U.S. House to pass legislation to ban genetic discrimination for the past eight years. This issue affects every human being, since we all carry dozens of genetic mutations that can predispose us to certain diseases. In October,

President Bush announced his support for this legislation, and the U.S. Senate passed it unanimously. Rep. Slaughter will continue to press the House leadership to take up and pass this very important bill.

Dear Friends,

I was honored to be sworn in last January as the first woman federal representative from Western New York. Getting to know Erie County and representing its interests in the U.S. House of Representatives has been a true privilege. Please take a moment to read about the work I have been doing in the Buffalo area and in Washington over the last few months. As always, if you ever need assistance, please contact my office at 716-853-5813 or my web site at www.louise.house.gov.

Sincerely,

*Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress*



Rep. Slaughter joins U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe (ME), Jim Jeffords (VT), Edward Kennedy (MA), Tom Harkin (IA) and Tom Daschle (SD) to announce Senate passage of legislation to ban genetic discrimination.

Keeping and Creating Jobs in Buffalo

Bringing new jobs to Western New York and keeping them there is a top priority for Rep. Slaughter. She has introduced several bills to help protect jobs in the U.S. and has led the fight to pass a job creation package, protect overtime pay and extend unemployment benefits.

In October, Rep. Slaughter hosted a conference for small business owners on Buffalo's East Side. This event was held cooperatively with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Local citizens met with



Michelle Barron of the Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation talks with a participant at Rep. Slaughter's Small Business Conference in Buffalo.

business experts to discuss how to start, manage and grow a small business. The conference was part of an ongoing effort to bolster economic development

and increase entrepreneurial activity on Buffalo's East Side and in the greater community.



Rep. Slaughter joins Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello and other local officials at a press conference to call for more funding for Buffalo's first responders.

Supporting Buffalo's First Responders

As a senior member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Slaughter knows how important it is to make sure our first responders—firefighters, police and other emergency workers—have the tools they need to protect our communities.

Last spring, Rep. Slaughter joined Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello, Buffalo Police Chief Larry Ramunno and Buffalo Fire Commissioner Calvin Worthy to call for more funding for emergency personnel. In May, the Department of Homeland Security awarded Buffalo and Erie County \$10.3 million to support its first responders. In November, the Department announced another \$10.1 million for the region.

Rep. Slaughter also held a forum at the Ellwood Fire Hall in the Town of Tonawanda to bring together dozens of local first responders with officials from the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to discuss the unique challenges they face securing the region.

In response to what was said at the forum, Rep. Slaughter helped author the Preparing America to Respond Effectively (PREPARE) Act in September. This important legislation will improve the first responder funding system, reform color-coded threat warnings and improve communications and equipment interoperability.

What's going on in the rest of the 28th Congressional District? To view other county newsletters, call the district office at 716-853-5813 or log on to www.louise.house.gov.

Promoting the East Side

Rep. Slaughter is working hard to promote Buffalo's East Side and to support economic development in the area. This year, her efforts there included:

- Hosting a conference for small business owners on Buffalo's East Side in October. Participants met with officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration and other local business experts to discuss how to start and grow a small business.

- Securing \$140,000 to study the renovation of Buffalo's historic Broadway Market. Built in 1888, the Broadway Market is one of the largest public markets in the U.S. and one of the oldest in continuous operation.
- Obtaining \$75,000 for 1490 Enterprises, Inc., a non-profit that serves East Side seniors. The funding will be used to make the 1490 facility more accessible by installing a new passenger elevator.



Rep. Slaughter joins 1490 Enterprises President Herbert Bellamy Jr. (left) and 1490 Enterprises Founder Herbert Bellamy Sr. (right) at an event to announce new federal funding for the seniors' center.

Fighting for Buffalo's Working Families

Rep. Slaughter strongly opposes proposals in Washington that could erode overtime pay protections for Erie County families. In June, she met with Western New York workers and labor leaders in Buffalo to discuss a "comp time" bill that would have undermined overtime pay protections guaranteed by the Fair Labor Standards Act, resulting in a pay cut for millions of American

workers. Under pressure, the leadership in Washington withdrew the proposal.

Rep. Slaughter also helped fight yet another Administration proposal that would redefine who receives overtime pay—again jeopardizing overtime pay for millions of American workers. The House recently passed a bill that included this proposal.

Serving the Northern Suburbs

Kenmore

In August, Rep. Slaughter joined Village of Kenmore Mayor John Beaumont, other local officials and business leaders to announce that she secured \$600,000 in federal funding for the completion of the third phase of the Delaware Avenue Streetscape project. The project will help revitalize downtown Kenmore, attracting businesses and shoppers to the area. New sidewalks, lighting, parking meters, benches, trash receptacles and landscaping will be added to the area.

Tonawanda

Rep. Slaughter, a senior member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, visited the City of Tonawanda Fire Department in October to announce a new \$189,270 grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The grant, awarded through the Assistance to Firefighters

Grant Program, will be used to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, fund firefighter health and safety programs, acquire new apparatus, enhance EMS programs, and conduct fire prevention and safety programs.

Grand Island

In August, Rep. Slaughter announced that she had secured \$250,000 to expand the Town of Grand Island’s wastewater system beneath Grand Island Boulevard. Rep. Slaughter joined local officials in Grand Island to announce the new funds, which will make the area more attractive to business and stimulate the local economy.



Rep. Slaughter joins City of Tonawanda Fire Chief Thomas Miller and members of the City of Tonawanda Fire Department to announce funding for new emergency equipment.



Rep. Slaughter joins Grand Island Town Supervisor Peter McMahon to announce funding she secured for a new sewer system there.



Protecting the Great Lakes

As a member of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, protecting the Great Lakes is a main concern for Rep. Slaughter. Lake Erie provides the Buffalo area with more than just a pretty view—it is a source of food, drinking water and recreation for millions.

This year, Rep. Slaughter joined her colleagues to introduce the Great Lakes Environmental Restoration Act. The bipartisan bill will establish a \$4 billion Great Lakes Trust Fund and coordinate efforts between the states to clean up the Great Lakes.



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Rep. Slaughter discusses the war in Iraq with a member of the 914th Airlift Wing at a farewell event in March.

Supporting the Troops

Rep. Slaughter salutes the brave men and women who are serving our nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. She continues to speak out on issues of safety and living conditions for our troops overseas and has sent letters to House leadership encouraging them to do everything possible to ensure our troops have proper safety equipment.

Other key concerns include providing adequate care of soldiers when they return and reducing age requirements for military retirement pay.

Her office serves as a source of information and assistance to military personnel and their loved ones. Please contact her at 716-853-5813 or visit her web site at www.louise.house.gov.

2004 Congressional Calendars

Rep. Slaughter is delighted to make the beautiful 2004 congressional wall calendar from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society available to interested constituents. For a free calendar, call her office at 716-853-5813 or send an email through www.louise.house.gov/contact.htm, and a copy will be mailed to you.



Saving AmeriCorps

Rep. Slaughter joins Sister Mary Johnice from the Response to Love Center in Buffalo, Americorps volunteers and other Members of Congress at a press conference in Washington to call for the elimination of devastating cuts to AmeriCorps, the national service program.